

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 AID-05 PC-01

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O R 011350Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9620

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8751

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJ: PRESS ALLEGATIONS OF US INVOLVEMENT IN INDIAN DOMESTIC
SITUATION

REF: STATE 153519

1. A/DCM CALLED ON TEJA AT MEA THIS MORNING AND BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION THE BLITZ ARTICLE (REFTEL) (WHICH WENT TO PRESS BEFORE THE STATEMENT OF DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY), A NASTY ARTICLE IN THE "NEW AGE" PUBLISHED JUST AFTER THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, AND AN ATTACK UPON THE US FOR BEING INVOLVED IN A "CONSPIRACY" IN INDIA WHICH APPEARED IN THE JUNE 30 ISSUE OF CPI-CONTROLLED BENGALI LANGUAGE JANGANTAR IN CALCUTTA. A/DCM OBSERVED THAT NOW THAT THE GOI HAD FORMULATED AND WAS ENFORCING STRICT CENSORSHIP RULES RELATING TO DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT AND STATE OF EMERGENCY, THE EMBASSY HAD TO ASSUME THAT PAPERS CARRYING ALLEGATIONS OF US INVOLVEMENT IN INDIAN

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS WERE EITHER DOING SO WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE CENSOR OR, IF WITHOUT APPROVAL, WOULD BE REBUKED
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FOR DOING SO. A/DCM NOTED THAT MEA SHOULD NOT BE SUR-

PRISED IF WE PROMPTLY BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION SUCH ARTICLES AND MADE INQUIRIES AS TO WHAT ACTION WAS BEING TAKEN TO PREVENT A REPETITION OF UNJUSTIFIED ATTACKS UPON THE US APPEARING IN A PRESS SUBJECT TO CENSORSHIP.

2. TEJA SEEMED VERY UNCOMFORTABLE AND SUGGESTED A/DCM SEE THE PRESS OFFICER (A.N.D. HAKSAR) ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CENSORSHIP. HE OBSERVED THAT THE GOI RELIED ON SELF-RESTRAINT ON THE PART OF THE PRESS ON PRINTING NEWS. MANY PAPERS HAD THEIR OWN VIEWS AND OPINIONS WHICH THEY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE TO PUBLISH. A/DCM OBSERVED THAT, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE EMBASSY TO ACCEPT THIS EXPLANATION IN VIEW OF THE STRINGENT AND SPECIFIC LANGUAGE SET FORTH IN THE GOI'S REGULATIONS ON CENSORSHIP. IN ANY EVENT, THE A/DCM SAID, HE FELT HE SHOULD CALL THIS MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE JOINT SECRETARY FOR AMERICAN AFFAIRS SINCE IT RELATED TO A MATTER WHICH COULD AFFECT US-INDO RELATIONS.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE BEGUN KEEPING A FILE ON PUBLISHED STORIES WHICH DIRECTLY LINK THE US, AND SPECIFICALLY CIA, WITH THE "CONSPIRACY" WHICH MRS GANDHI SAID INDUCED HER TO CALL FOR THE DECLARATION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY. IN ADDITION TO THE ITEMS CITED IN PARA ONE ABOVE, THE LIST ALSO INCLUDES SEVERAL SIMILAR ATTACKS FROM CPI-CONTROLLED VERNACULAR PRESS ELSEWHERE IN INDIA. WE ALSO INTEND TO CALL THIS MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GOI'S PRINCIPAL CENSOR AND MEA'S PRESS OFFICER.
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